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REMARKS

Claims 1-100 were pending in the present application. Claims 66-93 were withdrawn from consideration. By virtue of this response, claims 7-9, 11, 13-15, 20-33, 35-50, 53-65, and 95-100 have been canceled, claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 16-19, 34, 51, and 94 have been amended, and new claims 101-122 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 10, 12, 16-19, 34, 51, 52, 94, and 101-122 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 64 is objected to because of informalities.

Claim 64 has been canceled, so the objection is moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

In response, claim 34 has been amended to disclose a diameter greater than zero and less than about one inch, as indicated herein.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed subject matter complies with the enablement requirement.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 11, 13, 20-22, 24-25, 28, 30, 35-36, 38-39, 42, 44-45, 47-48, 51-58, 60-61, 64, 94-99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Zhou (U.S. Pat. No. 6,638,594).

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Regarding claims 1, 13, 30, 44, 53-54, and 94-95, Zhou allegedly discloses an article, comprising:

a substrate in the form of a tape; and

an optical recording material disposed over the substrate.

In response, Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended): An article for use in an information storage system, comprising:

a substrate in the form of a tape; ~~[[and]]~~

~~a[[n]] magneto-optic[[al]] recording material disposed over the substrate; and~~

a reflective material between the substrate and the magneto-optic recording material.

As amended, claim 1 discloses a reflective material between a substrate and a magneto-optic recording material. Applicants submit that the features of a magneto-optic recording material and a reflective material between the substrate and a magneto-optic recording material is not disclosed or suggested by Zhou. In contrast, Zhou discloses an optical phase change recording material. Accordingly, Zhou does not disclose each and every feature of the claim, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Hintz et. al. discloses, for example, the following:

"On a 1 inch (2.54 centimeter) wide polyamide tape substrate 226, there was formed, in order, a 100 angstroms thick layer 228 of chromium, a 400 angstroms thick layer 230 of aluminum, a 250 angstroms thick layer 232 of silicon, a 200 angstroms thick layer 234 of multi-structured platinum/cobalt, and a 200 angstroms thick layer 236 of silicon. The multi-structured

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platinum/cobalt layer 234 consists of alternating paired layers each having 10 angstroms of platinum and 4 angstroms of cobalt.” (column 8, lines 13-22):

While Hintz et. al does disclose a “multi-structured platinum/cobalt layer” that “consists of alternating paired layers each having 10 angstroms of platinum and 4 angstroms of cobalt” (column 8, lines 19-22), Hintz et al. does not disclose or suggest a magneto-optic material. Because the cited references do not disclose or suggest all of the features of the amended claim, Applicant respectfully asserts that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 2, claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (currently amended): The optical recording article of claim 1, wherein the magneto-optic recording material consists of a single alloy of two or more metals.
~~substrate has a thickness of less than about one millimeter.~~

Claim 2 has been amended to disclose a magneto-optic recording material consisting of a single alloy of two or more metals. Support for an alloy of two or more metals may be found in the specification, e.g. page 7, lines 5-11. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Since Hintz et al. does not disclose or suggest a magneto-optic material that consists of a single alloy, and Zhou does not disclose or suggest a magneto-optic material, the cited references do not disclose or suggest all of the features of the amended claim, and Applicant respectfully asserts that amended claim 2 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 56 and 96, claims 56 and 96 have been canceled, so the rejection is moot.

Regarding claim 3, claim 3 depends from amended claim 1, and applicant asserts that claim 3 is patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as claim 1.

Regarding claims, 20, 55, and 97, those claims have been canceled.

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Regarding claim 4, claim 4 has been amended as follows:

Claim 4 (currently amended): The article of claim 1, wherein the magneto-optic recording material is sputter deposited, ~~article has an aspect ratio of at least about 1.5.~~

Support for a sputter-deposited magneto-optic recording material may be found, e.g., and page 19, line 7. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. Although Zhou does disclose layers deposited by sputtering, Zhou does not disclose a sputter deposited magneto-optic material. Furthermore, Hintz et al. does not disclose a sputter deposited material. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 4 should be withdrawn for at least these further reasons.

Regarding claims 21, 35, 57, and 98, those claims have been canceled, so the rejection is moot.

Regarding claim 5, claim 5 depends from amended claim 1, and applicant asserts that claim 5 is patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as claim 1.

Regarding claims 22, 36, 45, and 58, those claims have been canceled, so the rejection is moot.

Regarding claims 7-8, 24-25, 38-39, 47-48, 60-61, and 99, those claims have been canceled, so the rejection is moot.

Regarding claims 11, 28, 42, and 64, those claims have been canceled, so the rejection is moot.

Regarding claims 51 and 52, claim 51 has been amended to depend from claim 1, and claim 52 depends from claim 51. Since both claims 51 and 52 depend from amended claim 1, applicant asserts that claims 51 and 52 are patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as claim 1.

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Claims 1, 5-6, 9-10, 12-13, 22-23, 26-27, 29-30, 36-37, 40-41, 43-46, 49-50, 53-54, 58-59, 62-63, 65, 94-95, and 100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hintz et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,460,853).

Claim 1 has been amended to disclose a magneto-optic recording material as described above. As stated above, Hintz et al. does not disclose or suggest a magneto-optic material, and applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 13, 30, 44, 53-54, and 95, those claims have been canceled, so the rejection is moot.

Regarding claim 94, claim 94 has been amended similarly to claim 1, and applicant respectfully asserts that claim 94 is patentable for reasons similar to those stated for claim 1.

Regarding claims 5-6, those claims depend from amended claim 1, and applicant asserts that claims 5 and 6 are patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as claim 1.

Regarding claims 22-23, 36-37, 45-46, and 58-59, those claims have been canceled, so the rejection is moot.

Regarding claims 9, 26-27, 40-41, 49-50, 62-63, and 100, those claims have been canceled, so the rejection is moot.

Regarding claim 10, claim 10 depends from amended claim 1, and applicant asserts that claim 10 is patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as claim 1. Furthermore, claim 10 has been amended to disclose a magneto-optic material comprising terbium, iron, cobalt, and chromium. Neither Hintz et al. nor Zhou disclose a magneto-optic material comprising terbium, iron, cobalt, and chromium.

Regarding claim 12, claim 12 depends from amended claim 1, and applicant asserts that claim 12 is patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as claim 1.

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Regarding claims 29, 43, and 65, those claims have been canceled, so the rejection is moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14-19 and 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hintz et al.

In response, claims 14 and 15 have been canceled, so for those claims the rejection is moot.

Claims 16-19 have been amended to depend from amended claim 1. Applicant asserts that claims 16-19 are patentable over the cited references for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

Claims 31-33 has been canceled, so the rejection is moot.

Claim 34 has been amended to depend from claim 3, which depends from amended claim 1. Applicant asserts that claim 34 is patentable over the cited references for at least similar reasons as claim 1.

New Claims

New claim 101 and its dependents (claims 102-114) disclose an optical phase change tape comprising specific compositions and thicknesses. Support for the amendments may be found, e.g., at page 13, lines 1-21. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In particular, claims 101-107 disclose the compositions and thicknesses of the optical phase change tape described in Example I of the specification (e.g. page 13). Claim 108 discloses the thickness described in Example II. Claims 109-110 disclose the compositions and thicknesses described in Examples III and IV. Claim 111 discloses a composition described in Example III. Claim 112 discloses a composition with a thickness as described in Example V. Claims 113 and 114 disclose compositions described in Example I. Claims 115-121 disclose compositions and

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thicknesses described in Examples VII and VIII. The features of new claims 101-122 are not disclosed by Zhou or Hintz et al, and it has not been alleged that these features are disclosed by Zhou or Hintz et al.

New claim 122 discloses the magneto-optic tape of claim 115 wherein the magneto-optic layer is sputter-deposited. Sputter-depositing of a magneto-optic layer is not disclosed by Zhou, as described above in regard to claim 4.

As described above, neither Zhou nor Hintz et al. disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of the claims under consideration. Since none of the cited references disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of the claims under consideration, applicant respectfully asserts that claims under consideration are patentable over the cited references.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 249212013900. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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